Message Text

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CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, NATO, MPOL, GW

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT: REPLACING THE SUPPORT DRAWDOWN

1. DURING THE FEBRUARY 12 BRIEFINGS WHICH USAREUR PROVIDED FRG OFFICIALS FROM FONOFF AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES TOOK THE OCCASION ONCE AGAIN TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE INCREASE IN U.S. COMBAT STRENGTH PLANNED UNDER THE NUNN AMENDMENT. HOWEVER, THEY ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE MODALITIES FOR CONSIDERING THE PROBLEM POSED BY THE U.S. DESIRE TO TRANSFER CERTAIN SUPPORT FUNCTIONS HITHERTO PERFORMED BY U.S. FORCES TO NON-US NATIONALS. WHILE THEY DID NOT QUESTION THAT THESE FUNCTIONS WILL HAVE TO BE PERFORMED BY SOMEBODY ELSE, THEY URGED THAT THE QUESTION BE LOOKED AT IN THE NATO AS WELL AS IN THE BILATERAL US-FRG CONTEXT. THE FRG IS STRONGLY OF THE OPINION THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE BUNDESWEHR STEPPING INTO THE BREACH. FURTHERMORE, THE FRG CONSIDERS THAT SINCE ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL BENEFIT FROM THE INCREASE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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U.S. COMBAT STRENGTH, ALL SUCH COUNTRIES SHOULD ALSO

CONSIDER THE DIFFICULTIES THAT WILL ACCOMPANY IT.

2. COMMENT: THIS EXPRESSION OF FRG VIEWS WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL APPROACH TO THE USG. NEVERTHELESS, IT REFLECTS THE VIEWS OF THOSE OFFICIALS IN THE DEFENSE AND FONOFF WHO ARE MOST CONCERNED WITH THE MATTER. THUS, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WASHINGTON COULD INFORM THE EMBASSY WHETHER OR NOT THE U.S. INTENDS TO RAISE THE PROBLEM WITHIN NATO AND THE RATIONALE BEHIND OUR INTENTIONS. EVEN A PRELIMINARY EXPRESSION OF OUR VIEWS TO THE FRG OFFICIALS WHO RAISED THE PROBLEM WOULD BE USEFUL.

HILLENBRAND

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